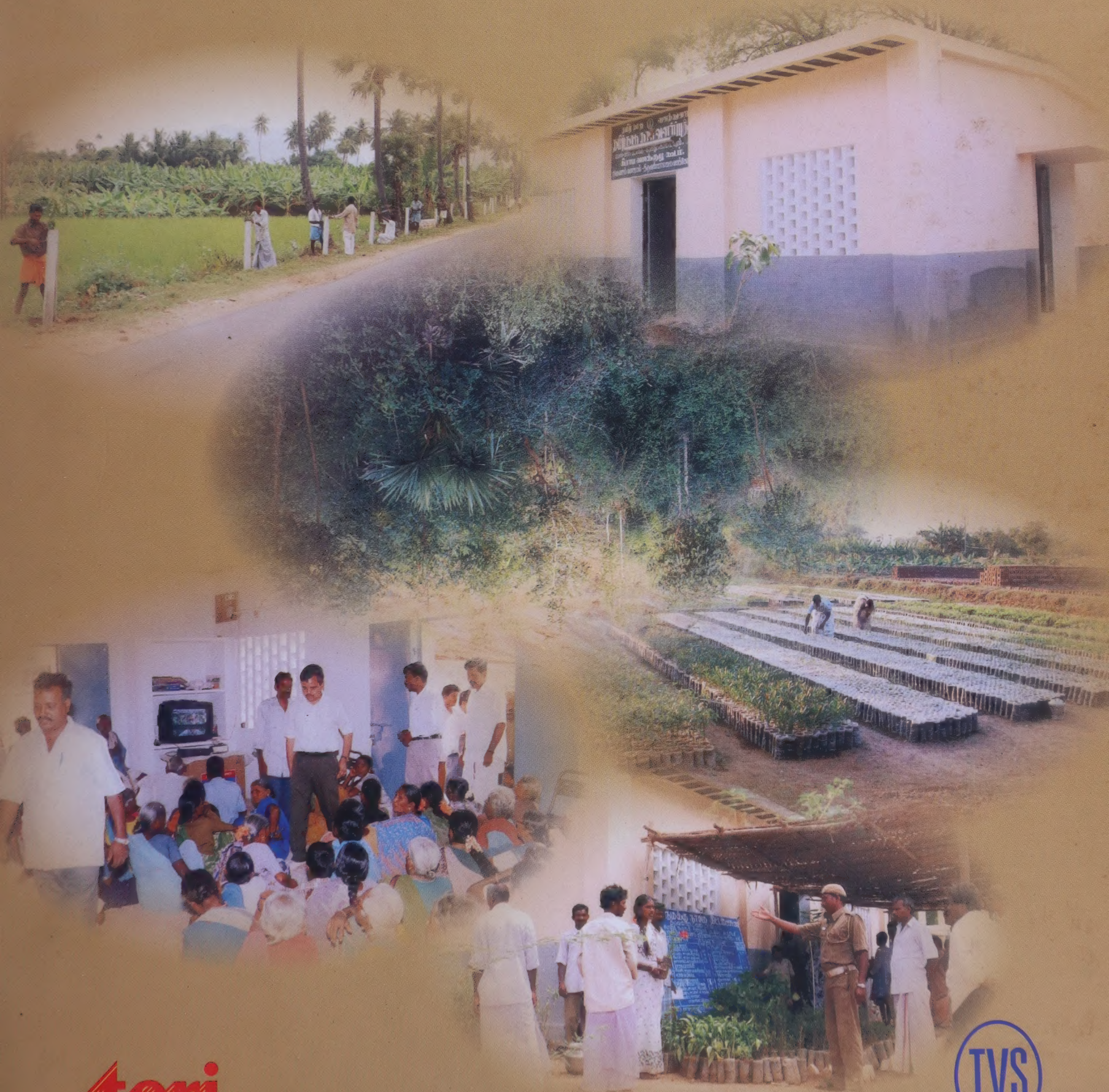


# CORPORATE IN A GREEN VOYAGE

## PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE FOREST DEPARTMENT AND TVS-SST IN TAMIL NADU







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**PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE FOREST DEPARTMENT AND  
TVS-SST IN TAMIL NADU**



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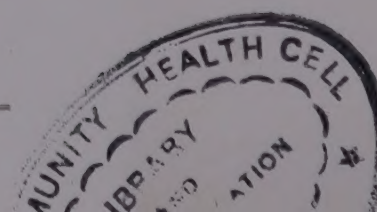
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Green beginning: promising, year-old plants in Padavedu



**J.C. KALA, I.F.S.,**  
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests



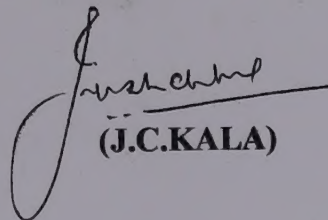
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Saidapet, Chennai - 600 015.

**FELICITATIONS**

It is rightly said that the role of non-governmental organisation is not to substitute the work of the Government, but to take the fruits of Government Schemes to those areas where it could not reach and to this effect SS Trust has done a yeoman service. During my initial discussions with the Managing Director of the Trust, I had requested him to identify and take up villages wherefrom we are withdrawing as a result of completion of our activities and to consolidate the gains of Government initiatives.

I am happy to note that the current projects of the Trust viz. Eco-development in Thirukkurungudi and Padavedu villages in Tamil Nadu have already started yielding the required dividends.

I look forward to the continued association of the Trust and wish all the success in it's endeavour.

  
(J.C.KALA)





Rejuvenating the source: Periyakulam pond provides irrigation for Thirrukurungudi village



## MESSAGE

OFFICE OF THE  
MANAGING DIRECTOR

TVS MOTOR COMPANY



November 26, 2001

We, at TVS, believe that Corporate Philanthropy and Commitment to society begin with the employees – their working conditions and responsibility to their families. After having taken care of their needs, we felt that we need to take a much involved approach in utilizing our resources to contribute to the society at large. TVS as a forward looking company has had a very strong sense of social responsibility since its inception in early 1900s and has been actively involved in efforts to contribute its mite to society.

I have always taken a keen interest in issues related to the state of the environment and the conservation of natural resources. In India the State control over forests, initiated during British period, continued after independence. As a result the traditional conservation methods based on social control that had long kept the forests intact were largely abandoned. In the last three decades, forest cover had become very sparse, hampering the capacity of soils to hold water. This degradation in turn caused increased runoff and erosion, further reducing the amount of soil moisture.

In this regard, the achievements of the TNFD (Tamil Nadu Forest Department) has been a source of great pride and I would like to congratulate the officials involved in this effort and commend them on their valuable contribution to the cause of conservation and protection of forests and natural resources.

Today, India is rapidly becoming an urban jungle and we are seeing a mass exodus from rural areas to urban cities creating untold pressure on infrastructure and living conditions. This trend needs to be arrested and the only way to make this happen is by improving living conditions and conserving the environment in rural areas. Poverty, as well as large and expanding human and livestock populations, put unrelenting pressure on forests of India. The consequence is severe degradation of the country's forest resources. The rural populace need a means of livelihood and need to wean away from their dependence on scarce forest areas for fuel wood and fodder. TVS has been closely involved in these efforts along with the nodal government agencies in the JFM (Joint Forest Management) programme at Padavedu in Tiruvannamalai district and Eco Development in Thirukkurungudi in Tirunelveli district.

I am pleased to report that SST (Srinivisan Service Trust) has taken upon itself the lead role in three major categories – Community Development, Alternative Income Generation and Empowerment of Women. The measure of success of SST is clearly reflected in the socio-economic incentives received by the local communities thus ensuring the continued conservation of forest areas.

TVS is fully committed to this cause and the coming years will see a more sustained involvement by TVS. I am confident that this would help replicate the success achieved by the SST in more rural areas under the able guidance of TERI (Tata Energy Research Institute) and with the active involvement and support of the TNFD.

Venu Srinivasan





Kalakad-Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve: full of natural splendour



## FOREWORD

In a decade since 1990, the JFM (Joint Forest Management) programme in India expanded vigorously all across the country. Today, over 14 million hectares of degraded forests is being regenerated and protected by more than 62 000 forest protection committees in 27 states of India. With this spread of the programme, there has been a paradigm shift in the approach to management of forests in most of the states. From its initial concept of a joint partnership between the ecosystem communities and the forest department to manage and protect the forests, the focus is now on holistic development of the village in addition to the management of forests. The importance of providing alternative sources of income to increase the current income levels is increasingly being recognized as an essential approach towards achieving the primary goal of sustainable forest management. The actions, under JFM, therefore, have profound implications across a wide spectrum of social and economic developments.

The new practice evolved through the decade, however, requires the involvement of many other partners. It needs a broad-based, multidimensional and collective endeavour of various development departments and others for natural resource rejuvenation. The association of TVS-SST in Tamil Nadu as third partner along with ecosystem communities and the Forest Department provides an innovative initiative towards achieving this goal.

Taking the example of TVS-SST participation in forest regeneration in Tamil Nadu, *Corporate participation in a green voyage* is an attempt to document the process and institutional set-up in which corporate sector could provide their endowment, influence, and resources to facilitate and speed up the process of forest regeneration as a socially responsible corporate citizen.

*Corporate participation in a green voyage: partnership between the Forest Department and TVS-SST in Tamil Nadu*, we hope, would be seen as a contribution towards increasing corporate partnership for the cause of green wealth across India.



R K Pachauri  
Director-General  
TERI





Green thumbs, not green horns: schoolchildren tend to roadside plantations





## INTRODUCTION

**T**he potential role of the corporate sector in the conservation of natural resources has been a much-talked about issue in recent times. However, examples of such involvement, especially those involving ‘community participation’, have not been conspicuous in India.

The SST (Srinivasan Services Trust), an organization initiated by Sundaram Clayton Ltd and TVS Motor Company, has recently taken up an endeavour to facilitate sustainable forest management in Tamil Nadu—a pioneering attempt which could well serve as a model for other corporate sectors.

The SST has promoted several community development programmes in Tamil Nadu over the last decade. Deeply

concerned about the widespread deforestation and degradation in Tamil Nadu, Mr Venu Srinivasan, the Managing Director of Sundaram Clayton Ltd and TVS Motor Company, nurtures a vision of ‘greening of the state’ in the years to come. This has led to the integration of SST’s community development activities with the ongoing afforestation and regeneration efforts of the Forest Department in Tamil Nadu. To begin with, the SST became part of two major programmes of the TNFD (Tamil Nadu Forest Department), the TAP (Tamil Nadu Afforestation Project), and the EcoDevelopment Project, since 1999, with the technical advice and guidance of the TERI (Tata Energy Research Institute), New Delhi.

## JOINT FOREST MANAGEMENT IN TAMIL NADU

The National Forest Policy (1988) envisages people’s involvement in the development and protection of forests. As part of the implementation of the JFM (Joint Forest Management) programme, the Government of Tamil Nadu issued guidelines in 1997 to involve local people in the reforestation and protection of degraded forests and to share with them the sustainable benefits from these forests.

People are organized into VFCs (village forest councils) with an EC (executive committee) elected by the VFC members to carry out day-to-day activities. The formation of VFCs is preceded by the preparation of a microplan in close consultation with the people using the PRA (participatory rural appraisal) tools. In the microplan, communities identify village needs (village development/alternative income generating activities) and prioritize them.



## INTERWEAVING SST'S INTERVENTION WITH JFM

The thrust areas of forest regeneration through public participation can be divided into two basic categories: alternative income generation programmes and activities related to community/village development. Of funds available with the Forest Department for these activities, only one-fourth can be spent for community development programmes envisaged under the microplan. This is the limiting factor for most VFCs in the successful execution of community development programmes such as repairing roads and ponds or

creating community assets such as school buildings. The SST has come forward to address this problem through community development interventions. Community development activities that were earlier initiated by the SST in Tamil Nadu have resulted in capturing the confidence of the village community as well as the local government, which is its main strength. The efforts are currently concentrated at Padavedu-Renugondapuram in Tiruvannamalai district and at Thirukkurungudi in Tirunelveli district.



Interaction for innovation:  
Dr V K Melkani, IFS, Conservator  
of Forests, at a meeting in  
Thirukkurungudi

In tune with nature: a check dam  
holds together soil and moisture





Befriending nature:  
Thirukkurungudi village



## CURRENT PROJECT AREAS

### Eco-development in Thirukkurungudi in Tirunelveli district

Thirukkurungudi village is located in the neighbourhood of the KMTR (Kalakad–Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve), one of the two protected areas selected for biodiversity conservation through FREEP's (Forestry Research Education and Extension Project) pilot eco-

development project funded by the World Bank. The eco-development project involves a two-fold strategy: one to reduce pressure on forests through the creation of fuelwood and fodder plantations in and around the village, and to installing fuel-saving devices, and the other to provide alternative employment opportunities for forest-dependent people.

### The people of Thirukkurungudi

- 2096 families live in 15 wards spread over an area of 14 km<sup>2</sup>.
- The total population of the *panchayat* is 8647 with 27% below the age of 15 years. There are 4247 men and 4400 women.
- Villagers live on crop and livestock supplemented by income from wage employment.

### Socio-economic attributes relevant to the eco-development programme

- The economy is characterized by subsistence agriculture in the absence of irrigation facilities, heavy dependence on wage employment, and a high rate of migration to cities.
- The dependence of professional woodcutters and grazers (for their livelihood) and the local people (for fuelwood) led to intense pressure on the forests.
- Women are mostly tied down by traditional socio-cultural and economic barriers.
- The area is deprived of adequate health facilities.



### JFM in Padavedu–Renugondapuram in the Santhavalas Range in Tiruvannamalai district

Situated on the fringe of the Eastern Ghats, Padavedu–Renugondapuram is one of the 1000 villages where the TNFD is implementing the JFM programme under the JBIC (Japan Bank of International Cooperation) assisted TAP (Tamil Nadu Afforestation Programme). The priorities for the JFM

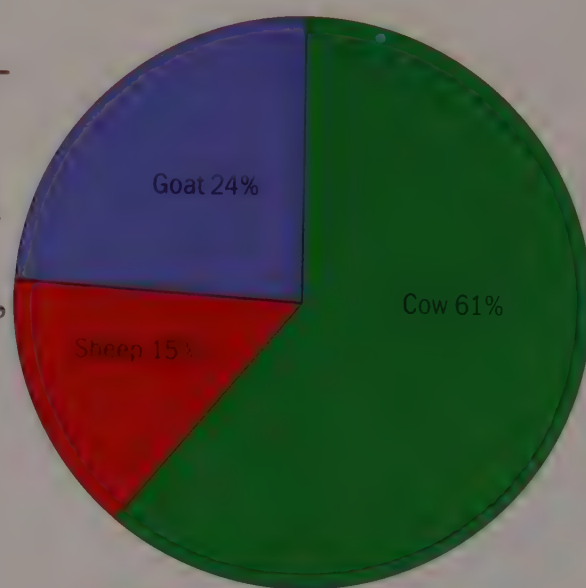
are (1) regeneration of forests through plantations, soil conservation, and 'social fencing'; (2) community development through the improvement of village infrastructure, basic amenities, and education facilities; (3) improving agro-ecology of the village with increasing tree cover outside the forests; and (4) rehabilitation of the poor, especially the forest-dependent people, by creating alternative avenues of income.

#### The people of Padavedu–Renugondapuram

- 652 families live in two hamlets—Renugondapuram and Kesavapuram.
- The total population of the village is 2893 with 1231 men, 1147 women, and 515 children.
- It is a multi-caste (10 castes) and multi-religion village with the major castes being Adi Dravidar and Vanniar. 11% of families belong to the scheduled castes.
- 251 families own agricultural lands, 7.5% of them are large landholders while 5.5% and 87% are the medium and small landholders, respectively.
- There are 84 professional woodcutters and 43 grazers.

#### Socio-economic attributes relevant to JFM

- The village economy is in abject condition with a large number of small landholder (comprising nearly 40%) families completely dependent on wage employment.
- Approximately 25% of households are under a debt burden of more than 6000 rupees.
- The large number of professional woodcutters, grazers, and livestock has led to substantial pressure on the forests for subsistence needs.
- A baseline survey estimated a deficit of 25 tonnes of fodder and 38 tonnes of green manure.
- There is complete absence of trees of any significant value in the village.
- No tradition of collective work is observed.
- Village women are mainly confined to household chores.



Livestock scenario (1999/2000)



Comparing notes: representatives of the Village Forest Council and the Forest Department meet in Padavedu-Renugondapuram



## PROGRESS SO FAR

The SST's interventions in forest regeneration, in areas under either the JFM or the eco-development project, fall into three main categories: community development, alternative income generation, and the empowerment of women. Most of these interventions have been taken up from the communities' priorities already identified in the microplan. However, a few additional activities (for example, computer training, vermicomposting, banana-fibre training, capacity building, and awareness generation) have been identified subsequently in discussions held between the community, the TNFD, SST, and TERI.

The SST's involvement has brought about several significant innovations and some of these are listed below.

- Providing professional expertise in developmental interventions to strengthen the initiatives of the Forest Department for JFM

The SST has established an RTC (Rural Training Centre)-cum-Field Offices at Thirukkurungudi and Padavedu-Renugondapuram. In these offices, an assistant engineer is entrusted with the overall coordination of the programmes related to JFM/eco-development. Additionally, professional social workers are also stationed at project areas to participate

directly in the implementation of the work. The formation, capacity building, and training programmes of the SHGs (self-help groups) are being coordinated by three women volunteers at the RTC at Thirukkurungudi. The SST by appointing rural development specialists and social workers at the grass-roots level has made available quality manpower and professional expertise to the entire gamut of 'entry point' activities in rural development and poverty eradication programmes, which, in turn, have helped establish the joint effort of forest regeneration and protection started by the Forest Department.

- Creating partnerships with various ongoing government rural development schemes/projects on poverty reduction and environmental conservation for mobilizing resources
- The NNT (Namakku Naamme Thittam) scheme of the Tamil Nadu government is designed to involve the rural community directly in the development work from planning to resource mobilization, execution of work, and maintenance of the structures. While the government provides three-fourths of the financial support under the scheme, one-fourth is contributed by the community, either



in the form of cash or kind or labour, which is a prerequisite. The SST has been tying up with the NNT at Thirukkurungudi and Padavedu–Renugondapuram since 1999 to mobilize the supplementary funds for various development works in addition to their own funds. In the year 1999/2000, out of Rs 32.5 lakh spent in development work at Thirukkurungudi, the SST contributed a major share of the total. Community, on the other hand, volunteered labour for construction and supervision. This has made ample funding available for the socio-economic well-being of the community, which has won the people's cooperation in forest protection.

■ **Liaising with local administration to execute development works**

The SST staff has been in constant liaison with the district administration to get 'entry point' works executed for the JFM, such as the reconstruction and maintenance of infra-structural amenities, roads, and drinking water source. In Padavedu–Renugondapuram, for example, the SST staff pursued the local administration and got a 32-km stretch of

metalled road repaired under the National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development scheme.

■ **Adoption, reconstruction, and maintenance of existing infrastructure**

Instead of developing new infrastructure for providing services such as irrigation, better drinking water facilities or medical assistance, the SST has identified existing non-functional resources (silted ponds for irrigation or non-functional tubewells) and undertaken their restoration and reconstruction. For example, for providing better health facilities to the people, the SST adopted the local PHC (Primary Health Centre) at Thirukkurungudi in 1999 and equipped it with better facilities. The OPD (outpatient department) building of the PHC has been completely renovated and a generator set installed for an uninterrupted power supply. Besides these, the SST provides the salary for the newly appointed female doctor at the PHC. Similarly, in water-scarce areas at Thirukkurungudi, the SST restored 13 hand pumps for drinking water through desiltation and other minor repairs.



Opportunity to raise income from land: banana cultivation in irrigated lands



**Building capacity: training youth to service two-wheelers**



## **SUCCESS STORIES: SOME GLIMPSES**

### **Programmes for alternative income generation**

#### ■ **Two-wheeler training for educated youths**

The six-month long training programme on two-wheeler servicing is divided into two parts.

- 1 Classroom lectures impart theoretical knowledge at the training centres during the initial months.
- 2 The practical training session is conducted at the TVS Motor Company dealers at Tirunelveli for trainees belonging to Thirukkurungudi.

Youths of Padavedu-Renugondapuram, on the other side, have trained with dealers at Vellore, Arani, and Polur. Besides arranging resource persons/instructors for imparting training, the SST also bears all costs including that of transportation for trainees travelling between Thirukkurungudi and Tirunelveli and between Padavedu-Renugondapuram and Vellore/Arani/Polur during practical training sessions.

Until June 2001, 28 youths from Padavedu-Renugondapuram and 22 youths from Thirukkurungudi had completed the training programme

and had received a certificate from the TVS Group. Some of them have already started doing repair and servicing work on a small scale.

#### ■ **Enhancing the agricultural yield: revival of irrigation source**

The desilting and construction of two new sluice gates on the Periyakulam pond at Thirukkurungudi has brought 750 acres of land under increased irrigation. This has boosted the village's economy by providing the landholders, as well as the landless and women, with an opportunity to earn more.

- For the landholders, the income from land has increased manifold as they have shifted from cultivating paddy to the more profitable banana crop.
- The availability of wage labour in agricultural fields has increased. The banana harvesting season lasts 4 months, from March to June, during which landless and small landholders are paid Rs 100 per day and provided with two meals.
- Banana cultivation has given women the opportunity to earn incomes from the fibre extracted from banana plants.



## Empowerment of women by creating self-help groups

One of the most valuable innovations of the SST's intervention has been the formation of women's SHGs (self-help groups). Each group consists of 20 women, each of whom contributes Rs 50 per month to the common fund. Until June 2001, 28 SHGs in Thirukkurungudi and 19 SHGs in Padavedu—Renugondapuram had been formed under the SST's initiative. The members of the SHGs have been trained to develop their managerial skills (such as book-keeping and maintaining records and documents) and technical skills (such as pickle/papad making or banana-fibre craft/

agarbatti-making/tailoring). Each group has been provided training to develop their expertise in different areas to maintain a demand for that skill/product in the market. For example, women of one group have been trained in tailoring while those of another earn incomes by making sambar, rasam, and turmeric powder. Besides this, the common fund accumulated through regular savings is loaned to members. The SHGs at Thirukkurungudi charge only 2% interest compared to 10% charged by the local moneylenders. The formation of these SHGs has boosted the women's confidence by giving them an opportunity to become active in a broader social and economic arena outside the household.

Nursery training  
for women at  
Padavedu



Capacity-building:  
maintenance of  
records



Theoretical  
training at  
Thirukkurungudi





## Income generation activities of self-help groups

### ■ Nursery activities by SHGs

SHGs at Padavedu–Renugondapuram are involved in nursery raising. A number of horticultural and forest species are grown in nurseries. The seedlings are used in the forests and also for avenue plantations inside the village.

### ■ Banana-fibre training

Resource persons from the KVIC (Khadi and Village Industry Commission), Thiruvananthapuram, trained women of three SHGs at Thirukkurungudi in banana fibre extraction and making handicrafts. While some women, after extracting the fibre from banana trees, prefer to sell it, others use it to make handicrafts and then sell them through local non-governmental organizations. The fibre is currently sold at Rs 60 per kilogram.

### ■ Medicinal plant nursery

The women SHG have established a medicinal plant nursery at Padavedu with technical guidance and financial assistance from the Forest Department. Nearly 50 000 seedlings of 16 varieties were grown and sold to the local people. The SST, on the other side, organized *Sidha* camps to make people aware of the importance of medicinal plants and herbal health. So far, roughly 10 000 people have participated in five such camps.

### ■ Bee-keeping

A detailed technical and market study has been undertaken by the SST to standardize the bee-keeping process and to establish the market links. This would be a useful income generation activity for the SHGs in future. A model bee-keeping programme has already been initiated. Efforts are on towards saturating the Padavedu area with apiculture activities with support from the Khadi and Village Industries Board.



Establishing gender equity: income generation by women augments fund inflow





▲ Village path in disrepair at Vattakulam



▲ SST intervention and community participation in rebuilding



▲ A concrete street invites one and all





## Developing social fencing—the story of Vattakulam village

Nearly 15 years ago, 29 professional woodcutter and grazer families settled at Vattakulam village in Thirukkurungudi panchayat. However, the settlement department never gave them the ownership of the land and so it was considered an illegal settlement. In 1997, when a VFC was formed in the village, people approached the Forest Department to repair the road that they used for going to the river. But the fund meant for 'entry point' activities in the Department could provide only 15 000 rupees. The villagers managed another 1500 rupees from nearby villages. At that point, the SST intervened and met the deficit by providing 37 bags of cement that helped to complete the construction. The street inside the village was also made concrete subsequently. The SST's support, however, did not stop at repairing roads. As a result of the constant communication by SST personnel to the District Collector, 29 families of Vattakulam were also given the *patta* by the administration in January 2001.

For the last three years, the women of Vattakulam, who had to go out to earn a livelihood, faced severe problems with child care when the mud structure of the *balwadi* centre broke down in the rain. Recently, the SST, under the NNT scheme, constructed a new concrete room for the *balwadi* centre, which can

accommodate 30 children below three years of age. One teacher and an assistant have been appointed to look after the children in the absence of their mothers. While the salary of the teacher is paid by the SST, the community pays the salary of the assistant. The SST has already approached the ICDS (Integrated Child Development Scheme) for providing a mid-day meal to these children. Commenting upon the difference these interventions made in the village, Smt. Vijaylakshmi, one of the women executive committee members, said

*I remember those difficult days when our abode was insecure, the place we used to leave our children during work time was desolate, the connecting roads inside and outside the village were dilapidated. Now it is only because of the continual support and help from the SST that our dwelling is secure, our village is approachable and we can go to work keeping our children at a safe and homelike place.*

And what are the benefits to forests resulting from this programme? In the words of Smt. Vijaylakshmi

*We don't go to the forests now. The people of Vattakulam have changed their traditional occupation as woodcutters. All men and women earn wage labour either in nearby agricultural fields or in construction. Women also earn incomes from banana-fibre extraction and bidi-making.*



## Development of the agro-ecology of the village

Around 460 saplings have been planted at Renugondapuram for avenue plantation. The pitting and planting costs of avenue trees have been borne by the Forest Department, while the cost of tree guards (Rs 15 000) has been borne by the SST.

## Awareness generation programmes

The SST has facilitated the VFC members, including women, to organize camps and cultural programmes for increasing environmental awareness, and an awareness of the benefits and importance of forest protection to the local people.

At the Malai Nambi Temple at Tirunelveli, women VFC members in collaboration with forest personnel of the KMTR organized an awareness

campaign against the use of plastic bags during the four-day-long annual festival of the temple.

## Fuelwood depot

During the Aadi Festival of Arul Migy Renukambal Temple, nearly 40 000 pilgrims gather at Padavedu. It is like a fair in the area and, on this occasion, the temple distributes *prasad* to the visitors. Permanent and makeshift eating shops also sell food to pilgrims. During such activities, there is a sudden spur in the demand for fuelwood. To meet this demand and to check further illicit felling for fuelwood, the SST encourages VFC members to open a fuelwood depot in the temple campus. For this purpose, the SST provides 4500 rupees as seed money, while the Forest Department supplies fuelwood to this depot from its own collection.



Thinking green: a rally on environmental awareness organized by the women of Thirrukurungudi

Nurturing nature: villagers fencing roadside plantations at Padavedu



More than a song and dance: cultural programmes help engender a green consciousness



Verdant wealth:  
the flourishing Padavedu  
forest area



## LOOKING AHEAD

The tripartite partnership among the SST, the TNFD, and the forest fringe communities of Tamil Nadu is just two years old; but in real terms it has influenced in a number of ways the course of JFM and the eco-development programme in the area. Most importantly, the SST's interventions in the programme have given shape to the concept of sustainable forest development, which talks about creating a balance among the ecological, social, and economic benefits of the area. The example of Vattakulum is the ideal demonstration of how socio-economic benefits act as a catalyst to create 'social fences' for forest protection and regeneration.

Commending the success at Padavedu-Renugondapuram, the Divisional Forest Officer of Tiruvannamalai Forest Division reported that *not even a single case of grazing and fire inside the forest was reported during the last year, which was evident in the excellent growth of last year's plantation in the forests*. The leadership and constant interaction and intervention of the SST has gradually transformed the once divided and disintegrated village community of Padavedu-Renugondapuram into a cohesive group. This was manifested in their decision to hand over 5 acres of common land, which had been under encroachment for years, for fodder plantation.

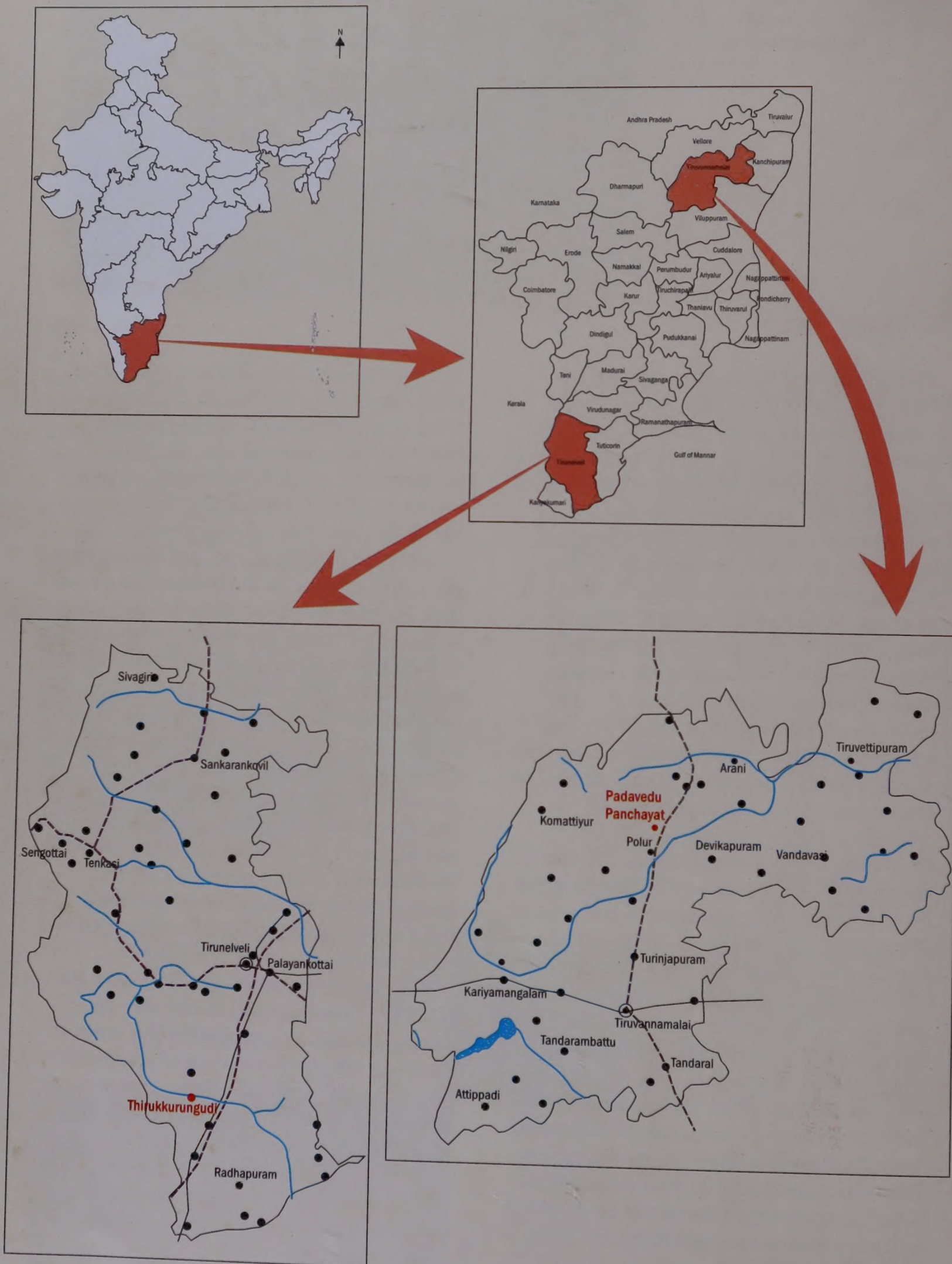
The excellent coordination with other government departments and schemes on rural and environment development in drawing funds and services for forest protection is another noteworthy achievement of the SST. Organizing women into SHGs has not only resulted in their economic empowerment, but has also made them quite active as environmental educators. As mothers too, these women may become potential motivators and educators of children that will help to nurture environmentally aware progeny.

The experience with these two areas clearly shows that after the integration of SST's programmes into the JFM and eco-development programmes, many of the innovative measures of JFM have firmed up. The SST's interventions have facilitated multiple socio-economic incentives to the local communities, thus ensuring the scientific management of forests taken up by the TNFD.

The tie-up between the SST and the TNFD is an example of the way the corporate sector can facilitate a smooth back-up for the execution of qualitative 'entry point' activities that constitute an integral part of the success of any forest management programme on a sustainable basis. This experiment has provided a breakthrough that can be replicated or further experimented with on an extended scale all over the country.



## GEOGRAPHICAL SPREAD OF THE PROJECT



Map not to scale



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## ABOUT SRINIVASAN SERVICE TRUST

The SST (Srinivasan Service Trust), an organization initiated by Sundaram Clayton and TVS for charitable purposes, has been promoting community development programmes in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. The goal of the SST is to develop 100 model villages over a period of 20 years wherein five lakh people would be benefited. Villages with a population of over 5000 are to be adopted towards overall development in five years by involving other local voluntary agencies and in partnership with various government organizations.

The TVS and its management nurtures a vision of "Eastern Ghats Afforestation" to reverse the wave of destruction. They believe that this process would need intensive interventions over a long period, about 20 years, before the forests are restored. They also believe that it would be extremely important to involve the communities dependent upon these forests in the restoration process.

## ABOUT TERI

A dynamic and flexible organization with a global vision and a local focus, TERI was established in 1974. While in the initial period the focus was mainly on documentation and information dissemination activities, research activities in the fields of energy, environment, and sustainable development were initiated towards the end of 1982. The genesis of these activities lay in TERI's firm belief that efficient utilization of energy, sustainable use of natural resources, large-scale adoption of renewable energy technologies, and reduction of all forms of waste would move the process of development towards the goal of sustainability.

A unique developing-country institution, TERI is deeply committed to every aspect of sustainable development. From providing environment-friendly solutions to rural energy problems to helping shape the development of the Indian oil and gas sector; from tackling global climate change issues across many continents to enhancing forest conservation efforts among local communities; from advancing solutions to growing urban transport and air pollution problems to promoting energy efficiency in the Indian industry, the emphasis has always been on finding innovative solutions to make the world a better place to live in. However, while TERI's vision is global, its roots are firmly entrenched in Indian soil. All activities in TERI move from formulating local- and national-level strategies to suggesting global solutions to critical energy and environment-related issues. It is with this purpose that TERI has established regional centres in Bangalore, Goa, and Guwahati, and a presence in Germany, Japan, Russia, and United Arab Emirates. It has set up affiliate institutes: TERI-NA (Tata Energy and Resources Institute, North America) Washington, DC, USA, and TERI-Europe, London, UK.

TERI hosts the annual Delhi Sustainable Development Summit, which is swiftly gathering momentum as a major forum for the convergence of globally renowned leaders and thinkers dealing with the issue of sustainability.

With a staff strength of over 500, drawn from multidisciplinary and highly specialized fields, offices and regional centres equipped with state-of-the-art facilities, and a diverse range of activities, TERI is the largest developing-country institution working to move human society towards a sustainable future. TERI makes effective use of the latest developments in modern information technology in both its in-house and outreach activities.

TERI lays great emphasis on training, capacity building, and education. In 1999, it set up the TERI School of Advanced Studies, recognized as a deemed university by the University Grants Commission, India. The School is evolving as a research university, offering doctoral programmes in bioresources, biotechnology, energy, environment, and regulatory and policy studies.

Having celebrated its silver jubilee in February 2000, TERI is now poised for future growth, driven by a global vision and outreach, with a philosophy that emphasizes and assigns primacy to enterprise in government, industry, and individual actions.